

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY APPOINTS VERBIEST AND REAPPOINTS VITAGLIONE TO
CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley has appointed **Sarah Verbiest** of Durham and reappointed **Thomas J. Vitaglione** of Raleigh to the N.C. Child Fatality Task Force.

Verbiest is executive director of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) Center for Maternal & Infant Health. She previously served as the North Carolina state program director for the March of Dimes. She serves on the board of directors for the Women's Birth and Wellness Center in Chapel Hill and is a board member for the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies of Wake County and the N.C. Perinatal Association. Verbiest received her bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., and her master's degrees in social work and public health from the School of Social Work and the School of Public Health, respectively, at UNC-CH.

Vitaglione is a senior fellow at the N.C. Child Advocacy Institute. He also is an adjunct associate professor in maternal and child health at the UNC School of Public Health. Vitaglione is co-chair of the safety committee for the Covenant with North Carolina's Children and a member of the N.C. Institute of Medicine. He received the American Academy of Pediatrics Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000. Vitaglione received his bachelor's degree in economics from Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., and his master's degree in sociomedical science from Columbia University in New York, N.Y.

The task force conducts a statistical study of the incidences and causes of child deaths in the state and establishes a profile of child deaths; develops a system for multidisciplinary review of child deaths; and studies the operation of existing local teams. It also examines laws, rules and policies relating to confidentiality of and access to information that affects agencies with responsibilities for children, including state and local health, mental health, social services, education and law enforcement agencies, to determine if those regulations inappropriately impede the exchange of information necessary to protect children from preventable deaths. The task force has 35 members, each serving a two-year term. The governor appoints four members.

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